

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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DRAFT REGISTRATION
COUNSELING AVAILABLE

DPS 82011

WASHINGTON (DPS, Jan. 21) -- Draft registration and conscientious objector counseling are available to all Episcopalians, nationwide, reminds the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, in the wake of President Reagan's January 8 decision to extend compulsory military registration at post offices for 18 year olds.

The Peace Fellowship, which has provided such counseling services for church members for 43 years, reminds those who are, or believe they might be, conscientious objectors, of the need to register their belief with the Conscientious Objector Registry maintained by the Episcopal Church Center at 815 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017.

In addition to counseling or counseling referrals available from each of the Fellowship's two dozen chapters around the country, diocesan bishops have appointed draft registration liaisons who can provide or obtain guidance for teenagers about the relationship of military service to their Christian faith.

The November 17, 1981 issue of the *Federal Register* (available in many public libraries) contains the new Selective Service System draft regulations, including many changes from the Vietnam War era. The most significant change for prospective conscientious objectors is the prohibition against making a CO claim at the time of registration. Any such claims must be filed -- with all supporting statements and documentation -- within nine days or less of the issuance of an actual induction order, thereby necessitating advance preparation.

"The Episcopal Church traditionally has supported conscientious objection as a valid faith witness," said Peace Fellowship chairman, the Rev. John M. Gessell, School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. The Fellowship's "first and continuing purpose is to help Episcopalians come to grips with choices about militarism in their personal lives," he added. Gessell said that "all members of our Church can help a new generation of young Americans learn about the meaning of their faith as they consider options about draft registration."

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship cooperates closely with the Church's Conscientious Objector Registry, the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors in Washington, D.C., and the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors in Philadelphia, Penn.

For more information about draft registration, registration counseling and conscientious objection, the Peace Fellowship may be contacted by calling 202/363-5532, or writing to Hearst Hall, Wisconsin Avenue & Woodley Road, Washington, D.C. 20016.

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DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE/Episcopal Church Center 212/867-8400

EDITORS ASSESS
POSTAL RATE JUMP

MAN - 1002

DPS 82012

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 21) -- Publishers of religious journals have spent more time with their calculators than their typewriters this past two weeks as they try to assess the impact of a government "Christmas present": the major jump in second-class postal rates.

Publishers were notified late last year that in the November-December federal budget imbroglio Congress abruptly had eliminated subsidies for second-class non-profit mailings in spite of earlier assurances that the subsidy would continue to be phased out over a period of years. The result was that the Postal Service Board of Governors created new rate structures which will mean doubling postal costs, in most cases.

The rates are based on a complicated formula that takes in the amounts of editorial and advertising material, weight, pre-sorting, and geographic area served so the percentages differ widely among Episcopal dioceses. Chicago, whose publication is a heavy, coated-stock magazine, anticipates a tripling of rates while Los Angeles, which publishes a tabloid newspaper in a fairly concentrated geographic/political area, expects to pay less than 60 percent more.

Since the rates took formal effect Jan. 10, most editors could only speculate on the actual cost but a random survey found no one disagreeing with the Rev. Boone Porter of *The Living Church* who felt they would cause "severe hardship" to all religious publications.

Church publications usually operate on a very narrow margin so it is impossible to say which ones will suffer the most, but the clear dollar losers are the national publications, such as *The Episcopalian*, *The Witness* and *The Living Church*. Henry McCorkle, editor and publisher of *The Episcopalian*, speculates that his annual postal bill for the 260,000 circulation monthly tabloid may approach \$250,000, more than \$110,000 above what had been budgeted.

Early reactions to this "Christmas present" ranged from open dismay, through anger and a sense of betrayal, and church press associations are gearing up to press Congress for some redress when the session reconvenes.

In support of this, the Rev. Canon James Bingham, editor in Maryland, and Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist and Maryland Council of Churches communicators took advantage of President Reagan's Jan. 21 visit to Baltimore to issue a stinging denunciation of the move and the way in which it was done.

In a televised press conference Jan. 20, the religious editors said the move "ruptured without apology or explanation an agreement" that had been hammered out over years of negotiation. Noting that the non-profit press, unlike its commercial sisters, was "almost entirely a captive of the postal system," they pointed out that the move also violated a principle of postal service laid down by George Washington that low cost access to postal service was "essential to public education and the survival of democracy."

They appealed to the Reagan administration and to Congress to "recognize that an injustice had been done" and urged steps to get postal rates "back on track" so that the non-profit mailers would get a "fair shake."

In a talk before the press conference, Bingham asserted that the real issue was "access to communication channels. Coupled with the restructuring of Federal Communication Commission regulations, this action very clearly says only the wealthy will be able to communicate."

The new rates also confront Church people with the question of what value they place on communication. Barbara Leix Braver, editor of the Massachusetts diocesan paper, said her editorial board had explored two options: collapsing down to seven issues a year from the current ten, or asking Diocesan Council for added funds. "We are going to go the latter route," she said, "because we feel that effective communication undergirds the mission work of the Church. If people are not informed and knowledgeable about what is going on in the Church, they won't support it."

That same feeling is echoed, in a somewhat different approach, by Christopher Walters-Bugbee, editor of *The Communicant* of North Carolina.

"It's a real blow," he concedes, "and I can't absorb it all in my budget, but I can't get as exercised about this as some have done. We knew it was coming and it is simply the real cost of doing business. Given any other option, it is still a bargain. I hope it will encourage a long hard look at Church communication and from that, some firm decisions to support it realistically."

Hoping to spur such an examination, the Rev. Richard J. Anderson, executive for communication at the Church Center, wrote in mid-January to all diocesan bishops

Noting the grave nature of the blow, Anderson urged the bishops to "not lose sight of the important part these publications have in the total life and work of the Episcopal Church. Newspapers and magazines are sometimes considered to be frills or luxuries within the Church's mission, but in fact they are at the heart

of all we do. I urge you to do everything you can to support the continuation of the generally excellent service these publications and the people who edit them are giving to the whole Church. Not all church bodies have the network of diocesan newspapers we have, and it is my hope that this vital part of our mission will be continued."

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GRANT AIDS
MUDSLIDE VICTIMS

DPS 82013

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 21) -- In the wake of torrential rains and resulting mudslides in northern California, the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief has approved an emergency grant of \$10,000 to assist victims in the Santa Cruz area south of San Francisco.

Bishop C. Shannon Mallory of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, which comprises five counties south of San Francisco, had requested the grant to help his diocese provide meals and living expenses for the many victims in the area.

St. Andrew's Church in Ben Lomond is serving as one of the central relief stations for the homeless and needy. The congregation has administered from 200 to 300 meals per day during the emergency.

The early January storm dumped up to 16 inches of rain along some 150 miles of the California coast, leaving dozens dead from the floods, landslides and related traffic accidents. Many other persons were missing, according to reports, and thousands were left homeless. President Reagan declared five counties in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Santa Cruz, a major disaster area.

In Santa Cruz County the storm left more than 1,800 homeless. Mallory said that he fears more emergencies and damage in the remaining winter months.

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MEXICAN EPISCOPALIANS AID
DIOCESE OF DALLAS MINISTRY

DPS 82014

MEXICO CITY (DPS Jan. 21) -- In a reversal of the usual practice, the Episcopal Diocese of Central and South Mexico has made a grant of \$9,000 from its Venture in Mission funds to a U.S. jurisdiction, the Diocese of Dallas, according to Bishop Jose G. Saucedo of the Mexican diocese.

The Dioceses of Dallas and Central and South Mexico have a Companion Diocese Relationship, an Executive Council-endorsed arrangement involving one U.S. diocese with one or more Episcopal or Anglican overseas dioceses for the purposes of mutual support in ministry and mission.

Saucedo told Bishop A. Donald Davies of Dallas that the Diocese of Central and South Mexico has reached its Venture in Mission fundraising goal of one million pesos. In addition to the grant to its companion jurisdiction north of the border, Venture funds will go from Mexico to the Episcopal Church in the Southern Philippines (\$13,000) and to the national Venture projects (\$9,000). The remaining \$9,000 will be used for projects in the Diocese of Central and South Mexico.

The grant to Dallas is designated for that diocese's work with Mexican Americans, according to Saucedo.

The Ven. Courtland M. Moore of Dallas, who is involved with the refugee ministry in that diocese, said that this grant is an expression of Saucedo's concern that the Companion Diocese Relationship be "truly mutual. Neither we nor they want a one-sided relationship," Moore added.

Saucedo said that he wants these funds to be used in a ministry with Mexican people when they come to the United States as immigrants.

Moore said that the Diocese of Dallas has a large Hispanic congregation of some 600 members at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Dallas and another parish of about 200 members in McKinney. He said that the diocese is ready to start an Hispanic ministry in the Fort Worth area. Several clergy from Latin America reside in the diocese and assist in this ministry, he said.

The Diocese of Dallas has designated about \$250,000 from its own Venture in Mission campaign for Hispanic work in the area, Moore said.

Moore said the grant from Central and South Mexico has not yet been received and no decision has been made about the specific project it will support. Moore said the Mexican grant is a "very welcome gift."

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PRESS ADVISORY

DPS 82015

Feb. 17-19 Meeting of Executive Council

The 44-member Executive Council of the Episcopal Church will meet Feb. 17-19 at Seabury House, Greenwich, Conn. The sessions open at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17 and are scheduled to close at noon on Friday, Feb. 19.

The proposed agenda for Feb. 17 includes opening business items; a message by the Presiding Bishop John M. Allin (8:30 a.m.); treasurer's report, progress report on presentation to General Convention, and 1983 preliminary proposed budget presentation. The Eucharist will be celebrated at noon, followed by lunch at 1:00 and standing committees meet through the afternoon and evening.

The Council will convene for a plenary session at 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 18 to consider standing committees' reports for action. Following lunch the plenary session will continue until 5:00 p.m. A special presentation on the report of the Board for Theological Education to Convention will be made that morning.

On Nov. 20 the Eucharist will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. and the Council's plenary session is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m.

The sessions are generally open to the press. Meals at Seabury House may be reserved by the press but rooms are not available there. Members of the press who plan to cover the meeting should call the press office (212/867-8400, exts. 401 or 403) or return the form below to reach the office no later than Feb. 8.

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PRESS RESERVATION FORM/ Executive Council Meeting, Feb. 17-19, 1982.

Name _____

Address _____

Representing _____

Please reserve meals at Seabury House as follows:

Wed., Feb. 17: Breakfast _____; Lunch _____; Dinner _____.

Thurs., Feb. 18: Breakfast _____; Lunch _____; Dinner _____.

Fri., Feb. 19: Breakfast _____; Lunch _____.

Return to: Press Office, Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017-4594.

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